GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:27
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2002
COMMUNAL RIOTS IN THE COUNTRY
A. VENKATESH NAIK;GULAM MEHMOOD BANATWALLA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any machinery in the Home Ministry to collect intelligence and to monitor situation in regard to communal violence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of communal riots that occurred during April-June 2002, State-wise;

(d) the number of civilians/security personnel killed/injured and property damaged therein, State-wise;

(e) whether the Union Government have identified the organisations behind these riots;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the assistance provided by the Central Government to various States to prevent such riots; and

(h) the details of guidelines issued by the Centre to deal with these riots and to undertake relief and rehabilitation work?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (h) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 27 for 16.7.2002 regarding `Communal riots in the Country`.

(a) & (b): `Public Order` and `Police` are State subjects as per the Constitution of India.Therefore, prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes as well as maintenance of data in this regard are the primary concerns of the State Governments. At the Union level, the Ministry of Home Affairs keeps a watch over the communal situation in the country, on the basis of intelligence inputs received from various intelligence agencies.

(c) & (d): The communal riots in Gujarat which started following the Godhra train carnage on 27.2.2002 continued with some sporadic incidents of communal violence during the period in question i.e. April-June, 2002. During this period 216 civilians and 2 police/security personnel were killed, 790 civilians and 211 police/security personnel were injured and the value of the property lost was about Rs. 417.07 crores. Besides, as per available information, during April to June, 2002, one major communal riot occurred at Jamner town in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra in which seven persons lost their lives and 42 persons sustained injuries.

(e) & (f): The Government of Gujarat has constituted a Commission of Inquiry with Mr. Justice G.T. Nanavati, retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India as Chairman and Mr. Justice K.G. Shah, retired Judge of Gujarat High Court as Member.The Inquiry is in progress. The involvement of any organizations in the said Gujarat Communal riots will be known only after the Inquiry Report is available.

(g) & (h): To prevent communal riots in the country the Union Government assists the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in a variety of ways like sharing of intelligence, sending alert messages, sending Central Para-military Forces to the concerned State Governments on specific request including the Composite Rapid Action Force which has been created specially to deal with communal situations and providing assistance in the modernization of the State Police Forces. In addition, the Union

Government sends advisories and guidelines in this regard from time to time. Detailed guidelines to promote communal harmony in the country have been issued to all the States/Union Territories which cover various aspects like gathering of intelligence, periodic review of the situation at District and State levels, peace committee mechanism, implementation of relevant Acts, handling of the media, role of Police and their training, management of essential services, setting up of Special Courts, compensation to riot-victims etc. The National Foundation for Communal Harmony in the Ministry of Home Affairs also implements schemes for rehabilitation of child victims of communal riots. Promotional efforts include the annual Kabir Puraskar and Communal Harmony Awards for individuals and organizations as well as observance of the annual `Quami Ekta Week`.

The State Governments have been requested to specifically instruct the district law enforcing authorities that they would be personally responsible for the maintenance of communal harmony within their areas of jurisdiction and that complaints received from the members belonging to minority communities should be attended to promptly and action taken against the culprits expeditiously.